

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Platte County Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Platte County Courthouse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square, Third & Main Sts. NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Platte City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#6 - Hon. E. Thomas Coleman

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Platte

CODE

165

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☒ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Platte County

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Platte County Courthouse, Courthouse Square, Third &amp; Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Platte City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64079

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Platte County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square, Third &amp; Main Streets

CITY, TOWN

Platte City

STATE

Missouri 64079

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

...EXCELLENT  
XGOOD  
...FAIR

...DETERIORATED  
...RUINS  
...UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

...UNALTERED  
XALTERED

### CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE  
...MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Platte County Courthouse faces south in the center of the public square at Third and Main Streets in Platte City. It is a classically derived structure, originally cruciform in shape, with a partial basement and unfinished attic. This shape has been modified by a widening and extension of the north wing to create an enlarged facility conceived to meet present day requirements. While this addition has, of necessity, modified the scale of the courthouse, it has done so with a sympathy for the original materials and decorative motifs.

### EXTERIOR

#### Over-all Dimensions

Prior to present construction, the courthouse at its widest points measured 100' on the north and south wings, and 80' along those to the east and west. Measuring 100' x 78', the new structure brings the total size of the courthouse to 100' (north and south facades) x 154' (east and west facades). The height of the courthouse at the cornice is 40'.

#### Construction materials and colors

The courthouse is constructed of red brick, locally made and laid in stretcher bond to form walls 16" thick. The random ashlar foundations are of native limestone, roughly 3' of which is above grade and topped with a cut limestone watertable. Decorative details are of limestone, brick and wood and are painted white in color throughout.

#### Roofs

Low-pitched cross-gabled roofs of standing-seam tin cover each wing of the courthouse, and the center roof of the addition. Roofs of the addition's flanking wings, also of tin, are flat.

#### Facades

The south, east and west wings of the courthouse present similar facades. The primary (south) facade has a three-bayed front of two stories capped by a pediment and flanked by the south facades of the east and west wings, each one bay in width. All openings of this elevation consist of round-arched, keystone wall arches into which are set recessed panels pierced either by round arched windows or fanlighted doors. The windows are trimmed with limestone lugsills, while radiating brick voussoirs cap the upper edges of the arches. Original twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wooden windows, surmounted by fanlights, have been replaced with aluminum reproductions. The five panel, double-leaf doors, which are also aluminum reproductions, each have a center panel of glass and a thirteen-light fanlight. The fenestration is symmetrical with the second story directly above the first.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREH STORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1866-67 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Peter McDuff

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Platte County Courthouse, Platte City, is a significant example of classically derived architecture of local design, materials and workmanship. It is a valuable symbol of its city, county and the State of Missouri.

Little is known about the architect, Peter McDuff, of Weston, also the designer of an early courthouse at Liberty, Missouri.<sup>1</sup> His plans and specifications for the Platte County Courthouse were accepted by the county on January 23, 1866.<sup>2</sup>

Platte County, where the courthouse is located, was outside the original boundaries of the state, because Missouri did not contain the area presently occupied by the six northwest counties of Platte, Buchanan, Andrew, Holt, Nodaway and Atchison when it gained statehood in 1823.<sup>3</sup> This wedge-shaped district, bounded by the Missouri River and the original western border of the state, was called the "Platte Region" and set aside as a permanent Indian zone. In spite of this, residents in the adjacent counties of Clay, Ray, Jackson, Lafayette and others began exploring and selecting sites in the Platte region in expectation of the annexation of this fertile ground for the State of Missouri. The area that was to become Platte County was described in those times as the best farmland in the region, so for the settlers the lure was very strong. It was also felt that the extension of the state's borders to the Missouri River would create a natural and defensible border to the Indian territory lying to the west.

Under strong pressure, the Indians agreed to cede the Platte region to the Government in a treaty concluded at Fort Leavenworth in 1836.<sup>4</sup> The treaty was ratified by Congress early in 1837, adding the "Platte Purchase" to the State of Missouri, and admitting it as slave territory despite objections that it was in violation of the Missouri Compromise.

Within a few months, almost every half-mile square in the area that is now Platte County was claimed and settled in an unprecedented wave of immigration. Before the annexation, the Missouri government had designated that the territory lying west of Clay County would be attached to Clay for civil and military purposes, and that the territory north of it would be attached to Clinton County. Clay and Clinton in turn petitioned for the organization of two new counties, and on December 31, 1839, Platte and Buchanan Counties were created, the organization bill providing that each county court would contain the constitutional minimum of 400 square miles. The first county court in Platte was held March 11, 1839 at the Falls of Platte (now Platte City) in an old log cabin.<sup>5</sup>

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bradley, Don. Platte County Courthouse - An Expanding Need." St. Joseph News-Press, 12 March, 1978, sec. B, p. 1.
2. "On November 2 the Citizens of Platte County have a Unique Opportunity..." Platte City, Mo.: Citizen's Committee in Favor of Bond Issue #181, 1976.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 2.065

QUADRANGLE NAME "Platte City, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 3466810 4359240

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Platte County Courthouse rests on Courthouse Square, a tract of land approximately 300 feet square and bounded by Fourth Street on the east, Third Street on the west, Main Street on the south and by High Street on the north.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Ms. Janice R. Cameron, Research Assistant

October 6, 1978

ORGANIZATION Department of Natural Resources

DATE

Office of Historic Preservation.

314-751-4096

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 176

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Jefferson City,

Missouri

65102

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Fred A. Foster 11/3/78

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources, and State Historic Preservation Officer DATE

DATE OF REGISTRATION

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bradley, Don. Platte County Courthouse - An Expanding Need." St. Joseph News-Press, 12 March, 1978, sec. B, p. 1.
2. "On November 2 the Citizens of Platte County have a Unique Opportunity..." Platte City, Mo.: Citizen's Committee in Favor of Bond Issue #181, 1976.

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ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 2.065

QUADRANGLE NAME "Platte City, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 11.5 34.6 6.8 1.0 4.3 5.9 2.4 1.0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                        

E                        

G                        

B                        

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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1. Ms. Janice R. Cameron, Research Assistant

October 6, 1978

ORGANIZATION Department of Natural Resources

DATE

Office of Historic Preservation.

314-751-4096

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 176

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Thel A. Cooper* 11/3/78

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources, and State Historic Preservation Officer DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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- 
2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1978  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
- 

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Ms. Mary J. Matthews, Research Assistant  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
October 30, 1978  
314-751-4096
3. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey (Editor)  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
October 6, 1978  
314-751-4096

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PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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Cut stone quoins are set at the corners of each wing, and a cut stone belt course divides the first and second stories. The wall arches interrupt otherwise continuous secondary belt courses that serve as their spring points on the first and second stories. The cornices and raking cornices feature dentil courses beneath projecting modillions.

This same pattern is followed on the east and west wings with the following variations:

- A. A one bay wide stoop porch replaces the three bay wide stoop porch of the primary facade.
- B. A central door flanked by windows takes the place of the three doorways of the main entrance.

The original north wing has been incorporated into a larger modern addition, extending to the north and featuring secondary flanking wings, 27' x 78' on either side. Similarities to the original building include: the first story treatment of the recessed, round arched windows; the continuation of the belt courses, cornice and raking cornice decoration; and the use of cut stone quoins at the outside corners of the addition.

The new structure differs from the original in the replacement of the round arched windows on the second story by paired segmental arched windows, the lack of a cut stone foundation, the rejection of the three bay arrangement in the north facade, attic and basement windows, a basement carport entrance, and the substitution of a wooden balustrade for the cornice on the addition's flanking wings.

**INTERIOR**

Basement

The original partial basement, now unused, has masonry walls and a dirt floor.

First Floor

The lobby, 30' x 40', is entered directly through the triple entranceway of the south facade. The three double-leaf doors are mirrored by three identical doors on the lobby's north wall, leading to the remainder of the first floor. In the north, the west wing contains the offices of the Assessor, Treasurer and Collector, while on the east are those of the Recorder and County Clerk. The center of the

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three interior doors opens on a long corridor, flanked by vaults, which connects the original building and the addition. Stairways on the east and west of the lobby lead to the second story.

Major doors have fanlights similar to those of the exterior. The lobby has undergone some renovation. New white oak reproductions of original doors have been installed. Preserved are the original brick walls in the lobby and corridor, with the addition of oak paneled wainscoting. Floors of both are laid in terrazzo tiles. The general offices are carpeted and have vinyl wall coverings. Ceilings have all been lowered. In the lobby and corridor, the woodwork trim is of wood; elsewhere the woodwork has been replaced with trim of aluminum.

The two stairways to the second floor are U-shaped. They are enclosed on the first floor level and have cast-iron balusters and newel posts on the second. The stairs themselves retain original cut-stone treads.

Second Floor

The second floor of the original courthouse building is bisected by a hall running east to west. The Circuit Courtroom on the north side of the hall is flanked by the Magistrate and County Courts. It has been modified to include holding cells, council rooms, storage and an audio-visual room. The south wing, above the lobby, contains a smaller lobby, restrooms and offices for councils and the court reporter.

All rooms of the second floor have been renovated. Walls are covered with vinyl with the exception of the secondary walls of painted drywall. All office floors are carpeted, and ceilings lowered. The Circuit Courtroom, finished in narrow oak stripping, includes a new judge's bench veneered with the front of the courthouse's original nineteenth century judge's bench. A door on the northwest corner opens on a straight staircase, leading to a platform and ladder to the attic, which is unfinished.

Addition

The addition contains the county jail on the basement and first floors. The second story includes general offices, jury rooms and the law library, with storage areas and future office space planned for the attic level. On the flat, balustraded roofs of the addition are inmate recreational areas. Although consistent with the courthouse in style, the addition's dominating size, as well as the contrast of its modern materials, has a somewhat detrimental effect on the appearance of the original structure.



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PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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**ALTERATIONS**

There have been extensive alterations to the courthouse, many affecting its original appearance and structure. In 1908, the cruciform plan was modified by filing in the southeast corner with a two-story addition, bricking up the windows in the sides of the south and east wings.<sup>2</sup> Due to its dangerous condition, the original cut limestone wall surrounding the courthouse grounds was torn down during the late 1950's, and at the same time the northeast corner of the building was filled in with two stories of additional vault space. In 1963, the southwest corner was also expanded into two stories of offices.

In the interior, new offices were partitioned off as needed, and in the early 1950's a mezzanine was added to the second floor level in the south wing. Through the years, restrooms, plumbing, electrical wiring and lighting, central heating and window and wall air conditioners were installed. White paint, applied in an effort to preserve the exterior, obscured the red brick and decorative stonework.

In 1976 a bond issue was passed by the county for the restoration and expansion of the courthouse and the addition to it of a new county jail.<sup>3</sup> The renovation included: removal of the additions to the south facade, restoring it to its original appearance; replacement of defective windows and doors; chemical removal of paint from the exterior and from the interior by sandblasting; treatment of the masonry with a coating to achieve a uniform color and to weatherproof the walls; refurbishing of the lobby to achieve a nineteenth century appearance; and the completion of interior woodwork left unfinished at the time of construction.<sup>4</sup> Over the years the building was neglected, and many interior features deteriorated. Complete restoration was deemed too costly, so the courthouse lost much that was architecturally valuable. Features lost included: the cut-stone tiles of the lobby, although those of the staircases were retained; the lobby's coffered tin ceiling; the molded tin ceilings of the second floor; and the original wood windows and doors. The Circuit Courtroom, too large for the county's present requirements, was considerably altered, and smaller rooms partitioned within it.

**CONDITION**

At the time of the addition, the original courthouse underwent extensive rehabilitation and as a result, its present condition is excellent.

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SITE

The Platte County Courthouse is located on the public square in Platte City, Missouri. This area measures 300' on each side and is bordered on the east by Fourth Street, on the west by Third, the south by Main Street and on the north by a small alley called High Street. On the northwest corner of the square is the Sherrifs House, a three-bayed rectangular structure of brick painted white, with a gable roof of standing-seam tin. The house is of contemporary date with the courthouse, with an attached jail constructed in 1909. The jail fell far below standards, and both jail and house, for which no adaptive use could be found, will be demolished late in 1978.<sup>5</sup> Southwest of the courthouse is a World War II artillery piece which replaced a captured Spanish cannon set in the courthouse square as a war memorial. Several large trees are located on the east and west sides of the square.

A concrete sidewalk along Third and Main Streets borders the property. Also of concrete, a large walkway connects all three of the original entrances to the courthouse and joins the sidewalk on the south.

On the east, west and south, the courthouse square borders on commercial property, and on the north an area of small, older houses. The square is situated on rising ground, and this, as well as the large size of the building in relation to its surroundings, makes it the dominant feature of Platte City, easily seen from anywhere in the town.

PRESENT STATUS

The Platte County Courthouse is not threatened at the present time, and the county, after a complex and extensive restoration and expansion project, plans to occupy it for many years.

FOOTNOTES

1. Michael R. Fitzsimmon (ed.), "History of the Platte County Courthouse and Jail," 1975, L. Robert Kimball and Associates, Kansas City, Mo., p. 16.
2. The information in this and the following paragraphs is taken from "History of the Platte County Courthouse and Jail," pp. 19-20.
3. Don Bradley, "Platte County Courthouse - An Expanding Need," St. Joseph News-Press, 12 March, 1978, sec. B, p. 1.

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4. The information in this paragraph is excerpted from a leaflet prepared by the Citizens' Committee in Favor of Bond Issue #181, "On November 2 the Citizens of Platte County Have a Unique Opportunity...", Platte City, Mo., 1976.

5. Statement by Mrs. Betty Soper, president, Platte County Historical Society in a telephone interview, July 13, 1978.

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Prior to the construction of a courthouse, the county and circuit courts met in various cabins or stores in the town. In December, 1840, the first Platte County Courthouse was begun, and it was finished a few months later at a total cost of \$15,000. Demetrius A. Sutton drew the plans and specifications, for which he received the sum of \$10. The courthouse was located on the southeast corner of Block 25. It was a two-story, wooden building, about 50 feet square and surmounted by a cupola, ball and spire.<sup>6</sup>

By 1861, the entire nation was embroiled in the issues which would lead to the Civil War and which would prove disastrous for the twenty-one year old courthouse. The southern states having seceded Missouri elected to remain loyal only after passionate argument. The sentiments of Missourians were deeply divided, especially in Platte City, where, although there was no outward rebellion, southern flags were flying and Union sympathizers ostracized.<sup>7</sup> Platte City was the scene of intense upheaval, with both north and south conducting guerilla warfare and wreaking havoc on the city and its people.<sup>8</sup> In retaliation to the guerilla activity, on December 16, 1861, Federalist troops, led by Colonel Morgan, set fire to much of the town, including the courthouse, which was totally destroyed.<sup>9</sup> Fifty years later, the question of whether or not Colonel Morgan deliberately burned the courthouse was still in dispute. In 1905 and again in 1906 the county tried to gain restitution for the burning from the U.S. Court of Claims. Unsuccessful, they sought an appeal from the Supreme Court, but lost there as well.

Although the Civil War's deleterious effects on Platte City and Platte County did not end with the burning of the city in 1861, by 1864 the county was beginning its preparations to rebuild. On April 2, 1864, C.P. Lewis, county clerk, advertised for bids to rebuild the courthouse and jail. It is assumed that county business was conducted elsewhere, but no mention was made of the temporary location. Prisoners were removed to jails in other counties. Before the rebuilding could begin, however, the town was burned once again by the Union Army in retaliation against southern bushwackers operating in the area.<sup>10</sup> The burning of 1864 was for Platte City the last great catastrophe of the war. Soldiers and residents returned and reconstruction began.

In 1865, Joseph Murphy was appointed commissioner of public buildings and \$100,000 appropriated for a new courthouse.<sup>11</sup> Block 24 had been purchased by the county as a public square, and this site was chosen for the proposed courthouse and jail. Peter McDuff was selected as architect, and the bid of J.A. McGonagle of \$88,500 was accepted. On June 20, 1866, the cornerstone of the present courthouse was laid, and the completed building was dedicated on St. Valentine's Day, 1867 with "...a dance and carousel."<sup>12</sup>

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The building aroused rather jealous admiration elsewhere in the state. Although conceding it to be the finest courthouse in the country, having cost nearly \$100,000, a Jefferson City newspaper found fault with the acoustics of the building. "...the Circuit Courtroom is a failure so far as speaking facilities are concerned, and loud speaking produces the reverberation of thousand echoes."<sup>13</sup> Whatever its shortcomings, the courthouse was the pride of Platte County. Immediately after its completion, Main Street, which fronted the courthouse, was graded, and the property owners were required by ordinance to macadamize to the middle of the street.<sup>14</sup> In April, 1871, citizens volunteered to plant shade trees about the courthouse,<sup>15</sup> and the frontage on Main Street was planted with maple trees in March of 1879.<sup>16</sup>

In 1901 the Secretary of the Navy donated as a memorial, a 12,000 pound cannon captured in the Spanish-American War, for the public square at Platte City. It was received by the county with great celebration<sup>17</sup> and remained in the square until World War II when it was sacrificed to a scrap metal drive.

The records of the Platte County Courthouse show many items of historical interest, one of which is a nineteenth century marriage certificate of a Jesse M. James, possibly that of the infamous outlaw.<sup>18</sup> In the civil lawsuit Winn vs. Reed in 1897, concerning 11 head of hogs, Newton Winn was awarded \$75.00 in damages. Upon hearing the verdict, the defeated and outraged Watson Reed shot Winn to death. He was sentenced to 99 years at hard labor.<sup>19</sup> This is believed to have been the only "in-court" slaying in Missouri. Blanche Caldwell Barrow, sister-in-law of Clyde Barrow and a member of the Bonnie and Clyde Gang, was tried for theft in the Platte County Courthouse in September of 1933 and received 10 years in the State Penitentiary.<sup>20</sup>

Over the years the courthouse, in addition to its function as the legal center of the county, assumed the activities of county business as well. The courthouse now contains the offices of the county treasurer, assessor, recorder of deeds, auditor and collector, and houses the county's data processing systems. This centralization is vital to the process of Platte County, which, despite increasing population, consists still of small towns, populated with small businesses and surrounded by farmland.

In 1970 the citizens of Platte County defeated a bond proposal that would have demolished the courthouse and replaced it with a new structure.<sup>21</sup> Much of the reason for the defeat was that the people felt the building should be kept and restored; it was to them a significant part of the accumulated history of their county. Similar proposals were rejected six different times but in November of

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1976 a \$2.4 million improvement project financed by general obligation bonds and revenue sources was approved by the voters. This project called for restoration of the south, east and west facades of the building to their original appearance, while on the north side a 27,000 square foot addition was attached. This addition doubled the size of the original courthouse.<sup>22</sup>

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Platte County Courthouse is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the theme of "Political Affairs."

FOOTNOTES

1. William M. Paxton, Annals of Platte County, Missouri, From its Explorations Down to June 1, 1897, (Kansas City, Mo.: Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Co., 1897), p. 407. McDuff's Clay County Courthouse, built in the mid 19th century on the site of the present courthouse, was also of classic derivation. Its basically cruciform plan was modified with triangular sections at the intersection of its wings, and the building was topped with a neoclassical domed cupola with engaged Doric columns. It was demolished in 1934.
2. Paul K. Goeldner, Temples of Justice: Nineteenth Century County Courthouses, (New York: Columbia University, 1970), p. 432. In a comparison with other courthouses throughout the state, the design of the Platte County Courthouse has similar characteristics to the Saline County Courthouse, built designed by J.C. Cochran in 1862. Both are in the same Italian derivative style, are constructed of brick and nearly identical in their cruciform floor plan, massive cornice decoration and limestone detailing. For the Saline County Courthouse, see: Nancy B. Breme, "Saline County Courthouse" (National Register Inventory-Nomination Form, Office of Historic Preservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, Mo., 1976).
3. Duane Meyer, The Heritage of Missouri: A History, (St. Louis: State Publishing Co., Inc., 1963), p. 180.
4. Ibid., p. 182.
5. William M. Paxton, History of Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri, (St. Louis: National Historical Co., 1885), p. 570.

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PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

4

6. Paxton, Annals, p. 41.
7. Ibid., p. 307.
8. "Guerillas in Platte County," Liberty Tribune, 8 August, 1862, p. 2.
9. "History of Platte County, Missouri," newsprint on file at Park College Library, Parkville, Mo., p. 699.
10. Paxton, Annals, p. 370.
11. "\$100,000 for New Courthouse in Platte City," Liberty Tribune, 23 February, 1866, p. 2.
12. Paxton, Annals, pp. 430-431.
13. "News Items," Missouri Statesman, 2 August, 1867, p. 2.
14. Paxton, Annals, p. 436.
15. Ibid., p. 505.
16. Ibid., p. 677.
17. "Spanish Cannon," Missouri State Tribune, 15 November, 1901, p. 1.
18. Data excerpted from the draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form for the Platte County Courthouse, completed by L. Robert Kimball and Associates, Kansas City, Missouri, 29 March, 1975.
19. "Watt, Reed," Platte City Landmark, 5 February, 1897, p. 1.
20. Data excerpted from the draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form for the Platte County Courthouse, completed by L. Robert Kimball and Associates, Kansas City, Missouri, 29 March, 1975.
21. Governmental Affairs Newsletter, vol. VIII, issue 7, March, 1974, p. 16.
22. Don Bradley, "Platte County Courthouse: An Expanding Need," St. Joseph News-Press, sec. B, p. 27.

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PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

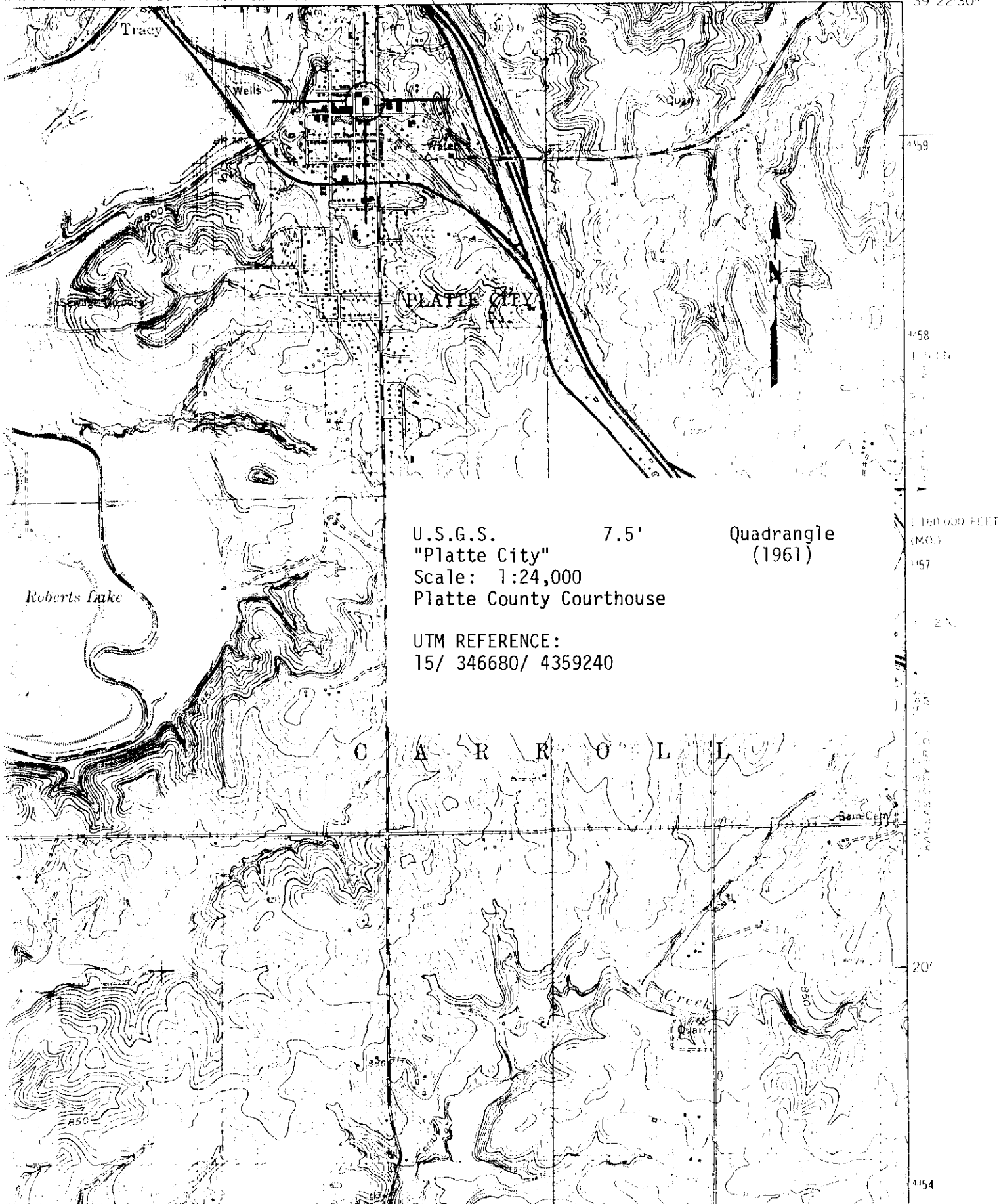
3. Goeldner, Paul, K. Temples of Justice: Nineteenth Century County Courthouses. New York: Columbia University, 1970
4. Governmental Affairs Newsletter, Vol. VIII, Issue 7, March, 1974.
5. "Guerillas in Platte County." Liberty Tribune, 8 August, 1862, p. 2.
6. Data excerpted from a draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by L. Robert Kimball and Associates, Kansas City, Missouri, 29 March, 1975.
7. Meyer, Duane. The Heritage of Missouri: A History. St. Louis: State Publishing Company, Inc., 1963.
8. "News Items." Missouri Statesman, 2 August, 1867, p. 2.
9. "One Hundred Thousand Dollars for New Courthouse in Platte City." Liberty Tribune, 23 February, 1866, p. 2.
10. Parkville, Mo. Park College Library. "History of Platte County, Missouri," n.d.
11. Paxton, William M. Annals of Platte County, Missouri, From its Explorations Down to June 1, 1897. Kansas City, Mo.: Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Co., 1897.
12. Paxton, William M. History of Clay and Platte Counties, Missouri. St. Louis: National Historical Co., 1885.
13. "Spanish Cannon." Missouri State Tribune, 15 November, 1901, p. 1.
14. "Watt, Reed." Platte City Landmark, 5 February, 1897, p.1.



PLATTE CITY QUADRANGLE  
MISSOURI-KANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SE/4 LEAVENWORTH 15' QUADRANGLE

7062.1 NW  
(CAMDEN POINT)

148 149 94°45' 39°22'30"



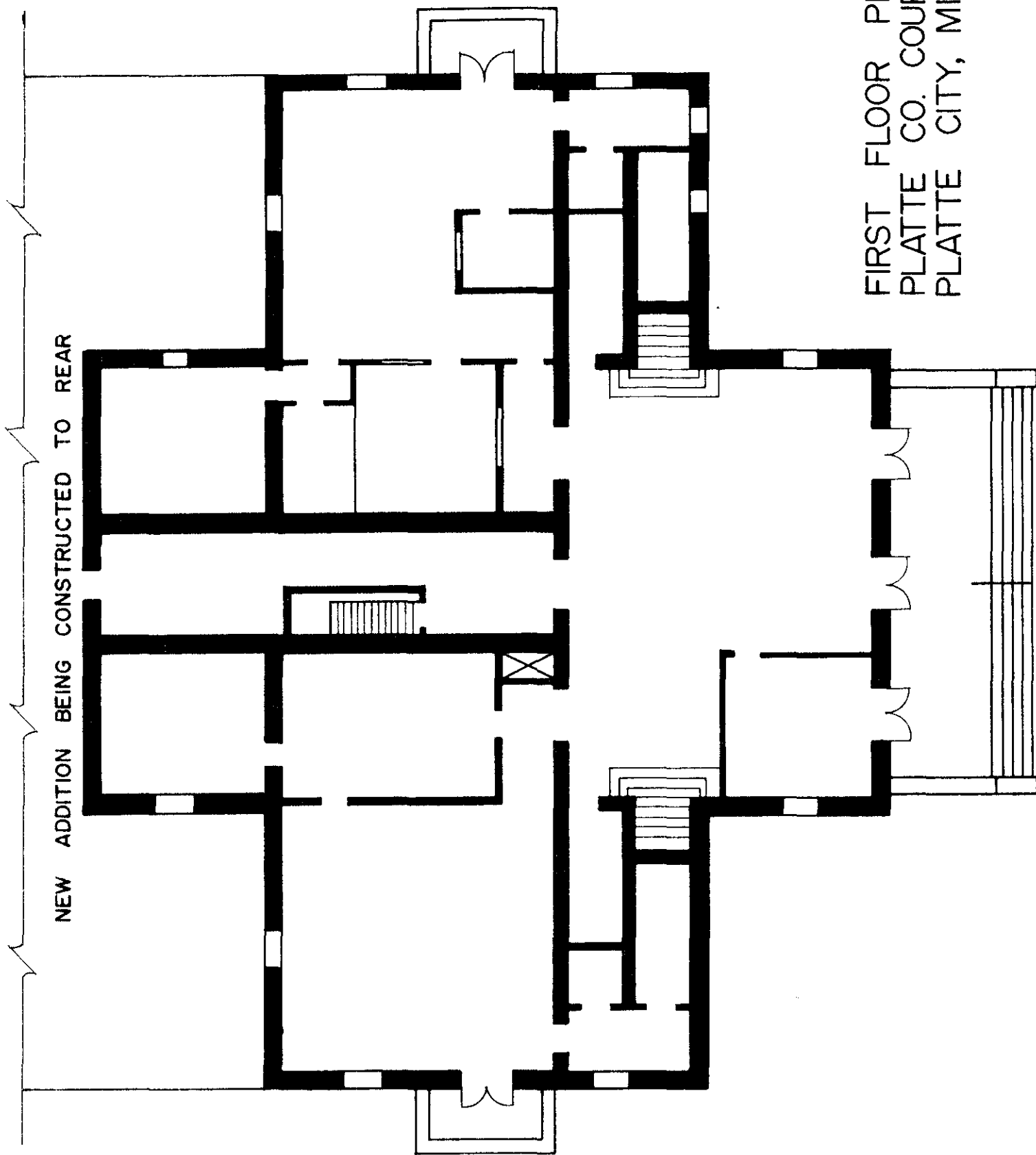
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Platte City"  
Scale: 1:24,000  
Platte County Courthouse

UTM REFERENCE:  
15/ 346680/ 4359240

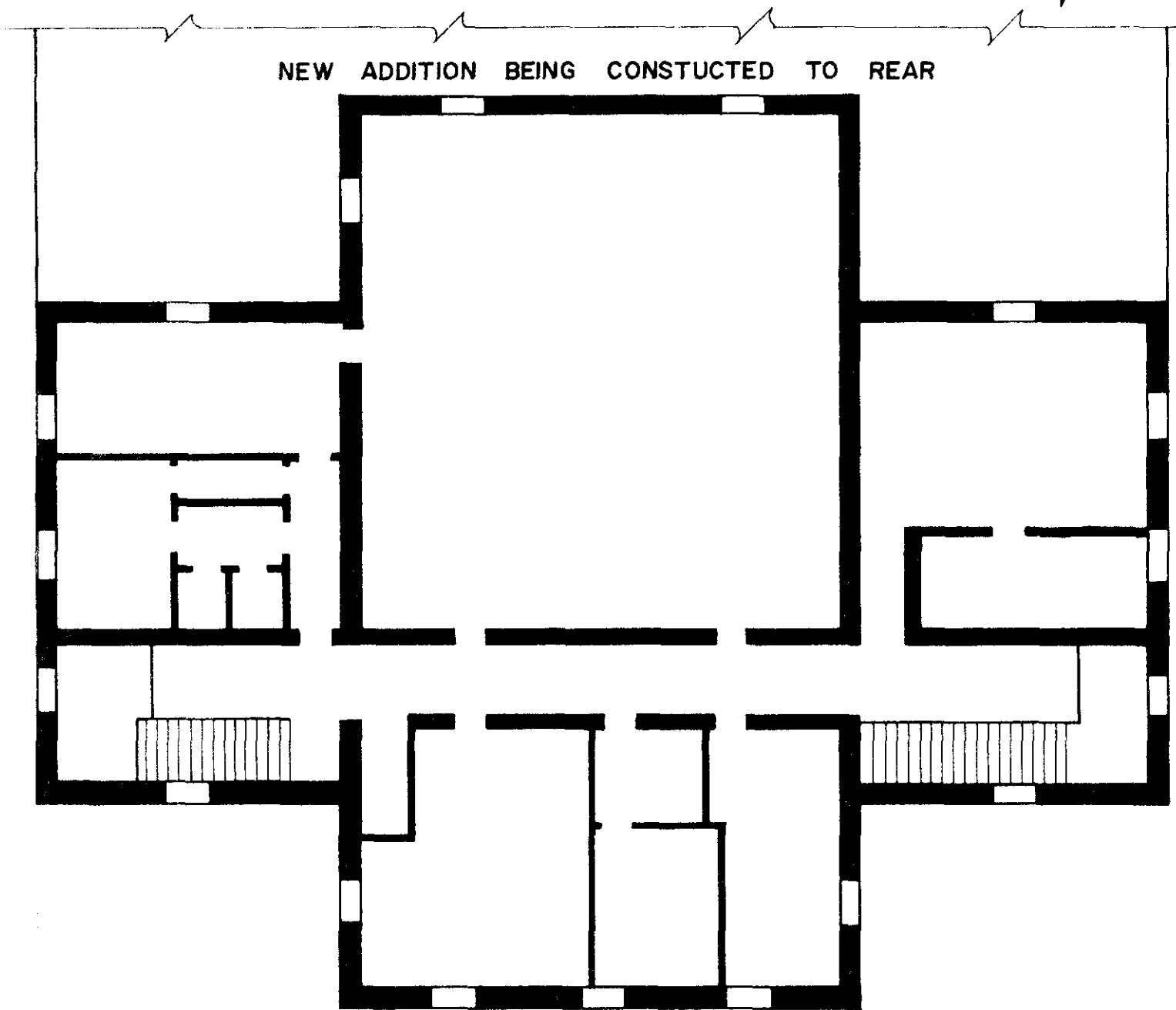
CARRROLL

Creek

Quarry



FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
PLATTE CO. COURTHOUSE  
PLATTE CITY, MISSOURI



2d FLOOR PLAN  
PLATTE CO. COURTHOUSE  
PLATTE CITY, MISSOURI

## PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

COUNTY:	Platte
LOCATION:	Courthouse Square, 3rd & Main Platte City
OWNER:	Platte County
ADDRESS:	Platte County Courthouse Platte City
DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:	October 27, 1978
DATE SENT TO D.C.:	November 15, 1978
DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:	November 21, 1978
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:	January 17, 1979
DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED (AND PRESENTOR):	
DATE FILE REVIEWED:	

The Platte County Courthouse, Platte City, is a significant example of classically derived architecture of local design, materials and workmanship. It is a valuable symbol of its city, county and the State of Missouri.

#1

PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Platte City, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

July 5, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65101

General view from southeast.



PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE #2

Platte City, Missouri

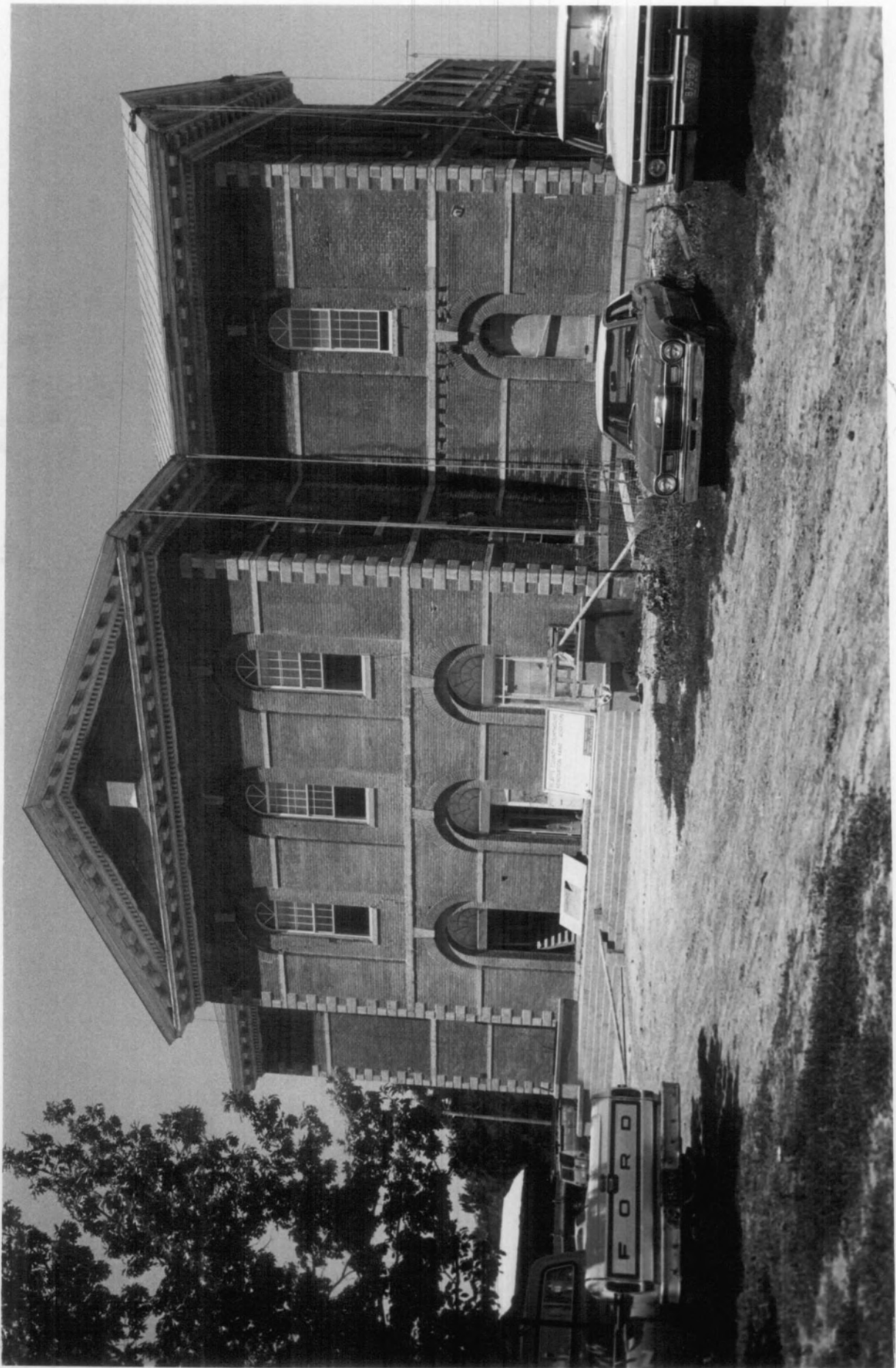
Photographer: Janice R. Cameron  
July 5, 1978

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P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Primary elevation, view from southeast.





PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE #3

Platte City, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

July 5, 1978

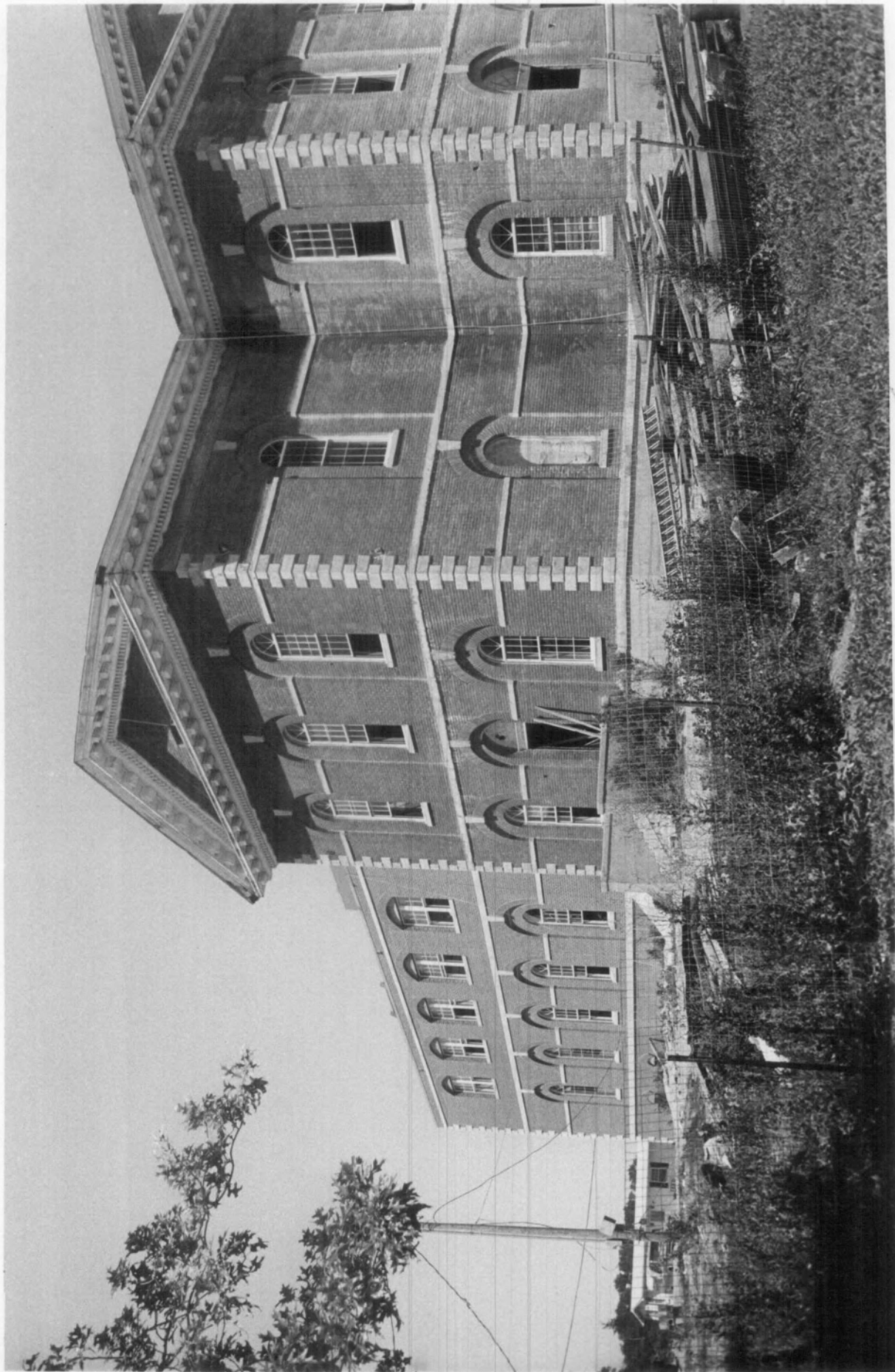
Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65101

West elevation, showing addition in rear,  
still under construction.





PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE #4

Platte City, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

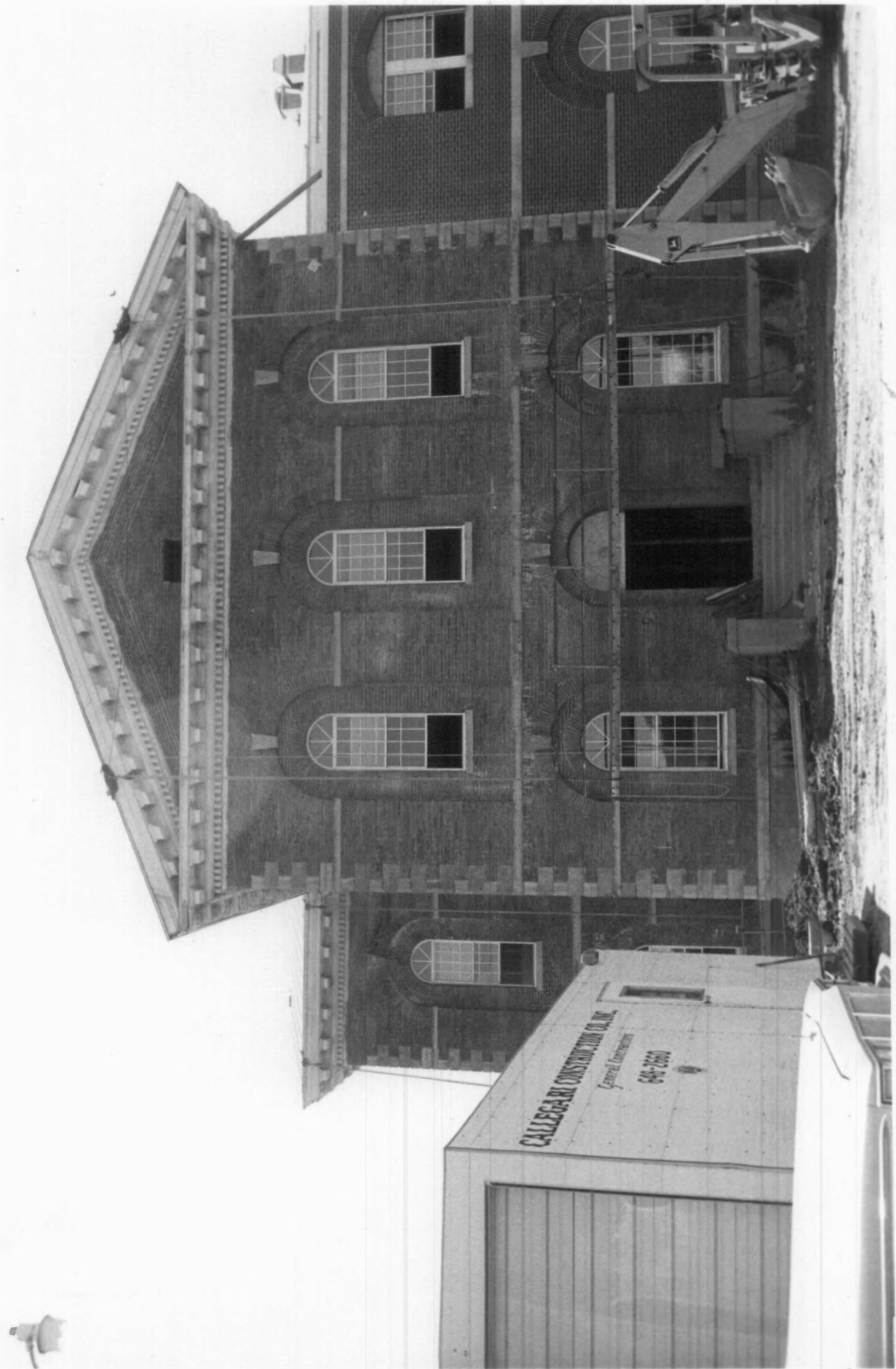
July 5, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65101

East elevation of original courthouse.



CALLERON CONSTRUCTION CO. INC.

General Contractors

646-2260

calleron@calleron.com

PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE #5

Platte City, Missouri

Photographer: Janice R. Cameron

July 5, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65101

View from northwest, showing addition under construction.





PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE #6

Platte City, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny  
October 14, 1976

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri  
65101

Second floor stairway detail, before renovation.





PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE #7

Platte City, Missouri

Photographer: James M. Denny

October 14, 1976

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, MO 65101

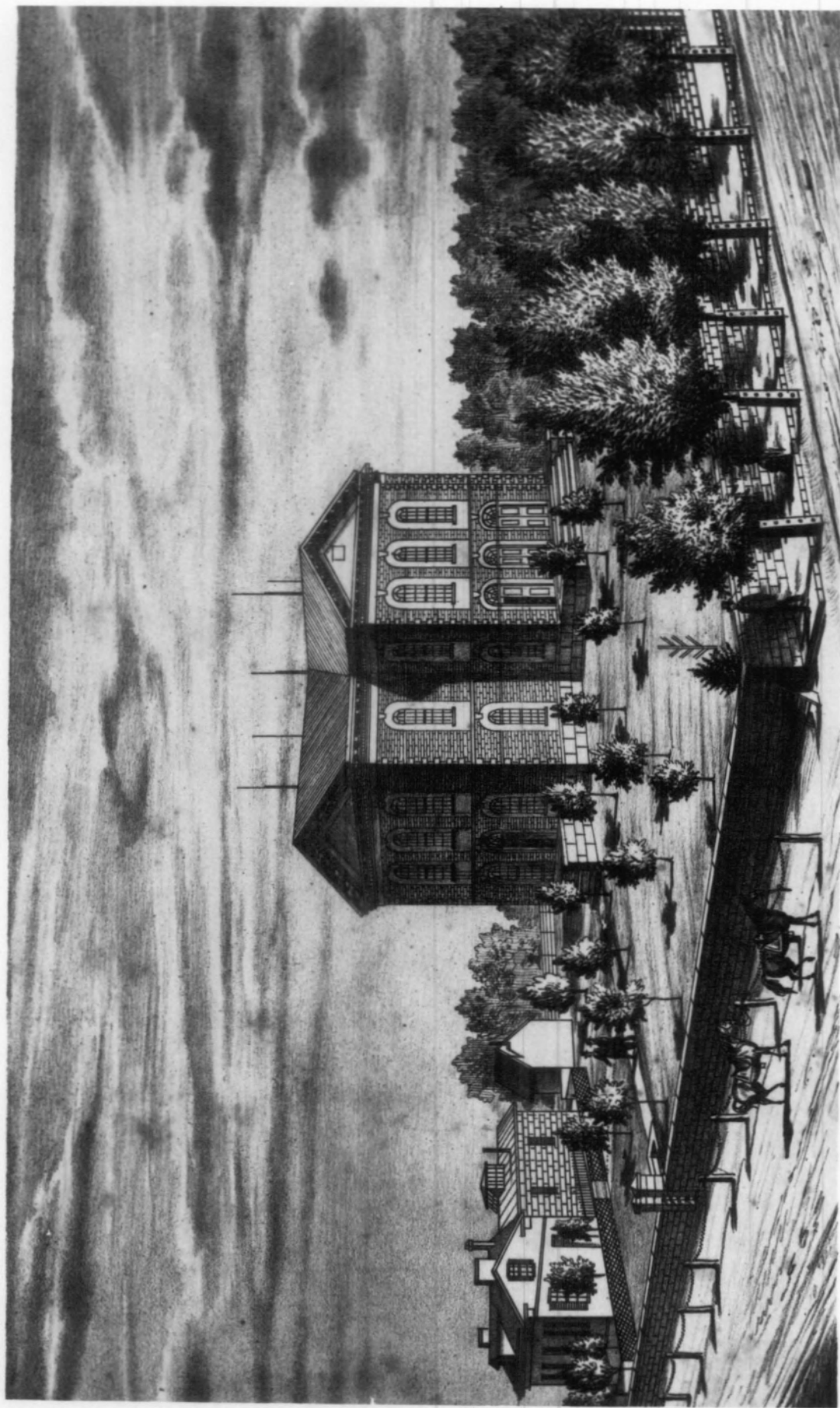
View from southeast of courthouse before  
renovation and addition, showing white  
paint and corner additions, since removed.



PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE #8  
Platte City, Missouri  
Photographer: State Historical Society  
of Missouri

Columbia, MO 65201  
Old view of courthouse from An Illustrated  
Historical Atlas of Platte County, Missouri  
(1877), p. 5. Note Sheriff's House and  
jail on lower left, and original wall  
surrounding courthouse square.

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PLATTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

